

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A motorized seat belt retractor comprising:
a motor having a motor shaft;
a load limiter for controlling the tensile load on a webbing withdrawn in the event of emergency; wherein the load limiter is configured to utilize a force generated by the rotation of the motor shaft to thereby control the tensile load on the webbing;
wherein the load limit is controlled using a variable resistor located in series with the motor in an electrical circuit configured to carry a driving current to the motor.
2. (Previously Presented) The motorized seat belt retractor of claim 1, wherein the variable resistor is configured to control a counter electromotive force on the motor shaft and the tensile load on the webbing.
3. (Original) The motorized seat belt retractor of claim 1, wherein said load limiter includes a mechanism for transferring the force generated by the rotation of the motor shaft to the webbing.
4. (Previously Presented) A motorized seat belt retractor comprising:
a motor having a motor shaft;
a load limiter for controlling the tensile load on a webbing withdrawn in the event of emergency; wherein the load limiter is configured to utilize a force generated by the rotation of the motor shaft to thereby control the tensile load on the webbing;
wherein the load limit is controlled using a resistor located in series with the motor in an electrical circuit configured to carry a driving current to the motor, and
wherein said load limiter is configured to control the tensile load on the webbing by alternatively placing the motor in a short-circuit and non-short-circuit condition according to a predetermined sequence.
5. (Original) The motorized seat belt retractor of claim 4, further comprising an electrical controller configured to establish the predetermined sequence.

6. (Original) The motorized seat belt retractor of claim 3, wherein said mechanism comprises a gear train which couples the shaft of the motor to a spool on which the webbing is wound.

7. (Original) The motorized seat belt retractor of claim 3, wherein said mechanism includes a locking mechanism to prevent the motor shaft from rotating in a direction corresponding to the webbing being withdrawn.

8. (Previously Presented) The motorized seat belt retractor of claim 1, wherein the load limiter is configured to increase the force generated by the motor at a rate based on the weight of a vehicle occupant.

9. (Previously Presented) The motorized seat belt retractor of claim 8, wherein the load limiter comprises an electrical controller.

10. (Currently Amended) The motorized seat belt retractor of claim 9, wherein the load limiter only utilizes the force generated by the motor.

11. (New) The motorized seat belt retractor of claim 4, wherein the resistor is a variable resistor.

12. (New) The motorized seat belt retractor of claim 11, wherein the variable resistor is configured to control a counter electromotive force on the motor shaft and the tensile load on the webbing.

13. (New) The motorized seat belt retractor of claim 4, wherein said load limiter includes a mechanism for transferring the force generated by the rotation of the motor shaft to the webbing.

14. (New) The motorized seat belt retractor of claim 13, wherein said mechanism comprises a gear train which couples the shaft of the motor to a spool on which the webbing is wound.

15. (New) The motorized seat belt retractor of claim 13, wherein said mechanism includes a locking mechanism to prevent the motor shaft from rotating in a direction corresponding to the webbing being withdrawn.

16. (New) The motorized seat belt retractor of claim 4, wherein the load limiter is configured to increase the force generated by the motor at a rate based on the weight of a vehicle occupant.

17. (New) The motorized seat belt retractor of claim 16, wherein the load limiter comprises is an electrical controller.

18. (New) The motorized seat belt retractor of claim 17, wherein the load limiter only utilizes the force generated by the motor.